

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06259 070831Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
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MANILA FOR YAKI AND PHILIPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON ASEAN CONFERENCE

1. MALAYSIA LEADING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY NEW STRAITS TIMES COMMENTING
ON ASEAN-U.S. DIALOGUE IN MANILA SAYS THAT THE SOUTHEAST NATIONS WILL
SEEK FROM THE U.S., AS IT DID FROM JAPAN, A COMMITMENT TO HELP UNDER-
WRITE THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF THEIR REGION WITH PROGRAMS AND POLICIES
ALONG THE LINES ADOPTED AT THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN PARIS AND THE
UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI. THE TEXT IN FULL FOLLOWS:

2. "WHAT ASEAN WANTS FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY JAPAN,
AUSTRALIA, AND THE U.S. HAS BEEN SPELT OUT QUITE CLEARLY IN LAST
MONTH'S ASEAN SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE. THOSE PRINCIPLES INFORM THE COMMON
APPROACH THAT ASEAN FORMULATED AT THE RECENT ECONOMIC MINISTERS'
MEETING IN PATTAYA. IN MANILA TODAY ASEAN WILL SEEK FROM
THE U.S., AS IT DID FROM JAPAN, A COMMITMENT TO HELP UNDER-
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WRITE THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH PROGRAMS
AND POLICIES ALONG THE LINES ADOPTED AT THE NORTH-SOUTH
DIALOGUE IN PARIS AND THE UNCTAD CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI.
ASEAN SOUGHT THIS--IN THE FORM OF STABILIZED COMMODITY
PRICES, MORE INVESTMENT IN ASEAN, BETTER ACCESS OR INCREASED
QUOTAS FOR ASEAN GOODS AND AID FOR ASEAN INDUSTRIES--FROM
MR. FUKUDA, WHO WAS FORTHCOMING ONLY ON AID FOR REGIONAL

INDUSTRIES.

3. "NEITHER THE U.S. NOR ASEAN EXPECT THAT THE TALKS IN MANILA WILL BE MORE THAN EXPLORATORY, THOUGH OF COURSE MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW WELL ASEAN PRESENTS ITS REGIONAL CASE. WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS THAT THE MEETING IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE FIVE ASEAN MEMBERS WILL BE DEALING WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS A REGIONAL GROUP RATHER THAN ON A BILATERAL BASIS. IF THE MOOD IS NOT ONE OF GREAT EXPECTATIONS, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT ONE OF PESSIMISM EITHER, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS SO FAR DEMONSTRATED A RELATIVELY ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ON CREATING A NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER.

4. "PRONOUNCEMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ARE OF COURSE NO GUARANTEE OF ACTION AND MR. CARTER, LIKE MR. FUKUDA, MAY IN FACT BE ABLE TO DELIVER LESS THAN HE WOULD LIKE TO. IN THE CASE OF ASEAN, AMERICAN ATTITUDES WILL ALSO BE COLORED BY THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF ASEAN'S VIABILITY AS A REGIONAL GROUPING. ONE TEST OF THIS WILL BE THE EXTENT TO WHICH ASEAN MEMBERS CAN PUT ASIDE NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE INTEREST OF REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND REGIONAL UNITY. THE ACCORD REACHED IN PATTAYA ON FINANCING ASEAN PROJECTS SHOULD LEAVE THE U.S. DELEGATION IN MANILA IN NO DOUBT ABOUT ASEAN'S INTERNAL UNITY." ITEM.

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